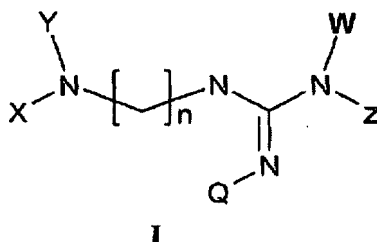


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



in which:

~~Z is selected from: H; saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched alkyl, consisting of from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with alkoxy and halogens; aryl or heteroaryl, mono or bicyclic, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, optionally substituted with halogens, NO₂, OH, alkyls and alkoxy, optionally substituted with halogens; arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl, where the a saturated or unsaturated alkyl containing residue consists of from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, mono or bicyclic, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, optionally substituted with halogens, NO₂, OH, carboxy, alkyls and alkoxy, optionally substituted with halogens; or, together with W, may form a cycle, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms;~~

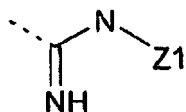
W is equal to H or, together with Z, may form a cycle, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms;

~~n = 0-104-7 ;~~

Q is selected from the Z groups listed above;

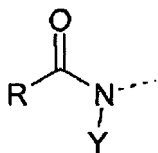
X and Y are the same or different and are selected from the Z groups listed above;

X may be a substituted amino-imino of the formula:



where Z1 is selected from the Z groups listed above;

or X is an R-CO group and, with nitrogen, may form a group:



where R is selected from the Z groups listed above or -OZ or -NZ ;

~~when n = 0, the X-N-Y group is replaced by an H;~~

and their pharmacologically acceptable salts, the racemic mixtures, the single enantiomers, stereoisomers and geometric isomers and tautomers,

with the proviso that the formula (I) compound is not N- (4-aminobutyl)-N'- (γ,γ - dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2369) or N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST 2527).

2.-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, in which X and Y are equal to hydrogen and n is equal to 4-7.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

- i. N-(6-aminoethyl)-N'-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2370);
- ii. ~~N (4 aminobutyl) N' (3 phenylpropyl)guanidine (ST2521);~~
- ~~iii. N (4 aminobutyl) N' (4 fluorobenzyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2524);~~
- ~~iv. N-allyl-N'-(4-aminobutyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2525);~~
- v. 1,4-bis-[N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidino]-butane dimethane sulphonate (ST2526);
- ~~vi. N (4 fluorofenil) N' (6 amminoesil) 4 metil 1 piperazinocarbossimmidamide (ST 2601);~~
- ~~vii. N (4 fluorofenil) N' (6 amminoesil) 1 piperidinocarbossimmidamide (ST 2602);~~
- ~~viii. N (4 fluorofenil) N' (4 amminobutil) 4 metil 1 piperazinocarbossimmidamide (ST2658);~~
- ~~ix. N-(γ,γ -dimetilallil)-N'-(5-amminopentil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2574); and~~
- x. N-(γ,γ -dimetilallil)-N'-(7-amminoepetil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2575).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound according to claim 1 in a mixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and/or excipients.

8. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 7, in the form of tablets, rigid or soft capsules, powders, solutions, suspensions, syrups, solid forms for extempore liquid preparations, emulsions, liposomal preparations, forms for the controlled release of the active ingredient, tablets coated with appropriate layers, microencapsulated powders, complexes with cyclodextrin, depot forms, depot injections or implants.

9. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 8, which can be administered orally or parenterally.

10.-12. (Canceled).

13. (Withdrawn) A method for lowering serum glucose and serum lipids comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compound of claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, in which the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- i. N-(6-aminohexyl)-N'-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2370);
- ii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(3-phenylpropyl)guanidine (ST2521);
- iii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(4-fluorobenzyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2524);
- iv. N-allyl-N'-(4-aminobutyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2525);
- v. 1, 4-bis-[N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidino]-butane dimethane sulphonate (ST2526);
- vi. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2369);
- vii. N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2527);

- viii. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoesil)-4-metil-1- piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2601);
- ix. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoesil)-1- piperidinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2602);
- x. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(4-amminobutil)-4-metil-1- piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST2658);
- xi. N-(γ,γ -dimetilallil)-N'-(5-amminopentil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2574); and
- xii. N-(γ,γ -dimetilallil)-N'-(7-amminoepitil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2575).

15. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventing or~~ treating diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and its complications, syndrome X, insulin resistance, hyperlipidaemias and obesity comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compound according to claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, in which the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- i. N-(6-aminohexyl)-N'-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2370);
- ii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(3-phenylpropyl)guanidine (ST2521);
- iii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(4-fluorobenzyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2524);
- iv. N-allyl-N'-(4-aminobutyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2525);
- v. 1, 4-bis-[N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidino]-butane dimethane sulphonate (ST2526);
- vi. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2369);
- vii. N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2527);

- viii. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoesil)-4-metil-1 - piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2601);
- ix. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoesil)-1 - piperidinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2602);
- x. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(4-amminobutil)-4-metil-1 - piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST2658);
- xi. N-(γ,γ -dimetilallil)-N'-(5-amminopentil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2574); and
- xii. N-(γ,γ -dimetilallil)-N'-(7-amminoetil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2575).